

Message Text

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41

ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7546

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01091

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UK, US, UR

SUBJECT: GENEVA PROTOCOL OF 1925: CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

1. ON JANUARY 23 WE PASSED TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S JANUARY 22 STATEMENT ON SIGNING PROTOCOL TO FCO DISARMAMENT DEPARTMENT. THEY NOTED THAT PRESIDENT SAID "UK HAS COMPLETED PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES FOR RATIFICATION..." CURRENT STATUS IS THAT UK PARLIAMENT HAS PASSED BILL BUT STILL MUST MAKE ORDER IN COUNCIL SO THAT LEGISLATION WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN DEPENDENT TERRITORIES. TELEGRAMS WERE SENT TO 17 DEPENDENT TERRITORIES ON DEC. 20, 1974. SO FAR 5 HAVE AFFIRMED THAT THE BILL IS COMPATIBLE WITH LOCAL LEGISLATION; 3 HAVE PROPOSED MINOR AMENDMENTS. OTHER 9 HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED. FCO SENT FURTHER REQUESTS FOR RESPONSES TO 9 ON JANUARY 23. PRIVY COUNCIL IS READY TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION ON ORDER IN COUNCIL WHEN ALL REPLIES RECEIVED. BUT HONEST ESTIMATE IS THAT UK WILL NOT BE READY TO DEPOSIT INSTRUMENTS UNTIL END FEBRUARY.

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2. FCO LEGAL ADVISOR'S OFFICE (EATON) HAS ASKED THAT

USG CLARIFY WHETHER PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IS AMPLIFICATION OF EARLIER U.S. INTERPRETATION OF PROTOCOL OR WHETHER PREVIOUS INTERPRETATION STANDS. REQUEST THAT U.S. DELEGATION TO CONSULTATIONS ON HUMANITARIAN LAW IN LONDON JAN 27-29 BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS WITH EATON.

3. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY ADVANCE INFORMATION POSSIBLE ON THE MODALITIES OF U.S. DEPOSIT OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION IN LONDON.

SPIERS

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